

PREFACE

times, are derived from five principal sources : the *Vita* or *Legenda* (known as the *Legenda prolixa*^ or, in Italian, *Leggenda maggiore*) ; the *Processus*; the *Supplemmtum*; the *Legenda abbreviata* (*Leggenda minore*, in Italian) ; and Catherine's own *Letters*.

(i) In 1384, four years after the Saint's death, Fra Raimondo delle Vigne of Capua, who had been her third confessor and chief director, and was then master-general of the Dominicans, began his admirable history of her, the *Vita* by excellence, which, in one of his letters, he calls : *Sanctae Matris Catharinae eximia Legenda*. This was finished in 1395. Raimondo's Latin text was first published in 1553 at Cologne (an edition now of the utmost rarity), and has been re-edited by the Bollandists in the third volume of the *Acta Sanctorum* for April. An Italian version, begun by one of the Saint's secretaries, Neri di Landoccio Pagliaresi, and finished by a native of Piacenza, whose name is unknown, was printed at the Dominican convent of San Jacopo di Ripoli near Florence, by Fra Domenico da Pistoia and Fra Piero da Pisa, in 1477. Another edition, in which the second half of the translation is identical with that of the *editioprinceps*, while the first half (up to the middle of Part II. cap. x. par, 5 in Pecci's version, or § 283 in the *Acta Sanctorum*) differs considerably, was printed at Milan in 1489 ; it is evidently the complete translation made by the anonymous scholar of Piacenza, at the bidding of Don Stefano Maconi.¹ Instead, however, of these, a comparatively modern translation by the Canonico Bernardino Pecci, first published by Girolamo Gigli at Siena in 1707, may be said to hold the field. While relying mainly on the Latin text of the *Legenda*^ I have consulted the convenience of readers by giving references to the divisions of part, chapter, and paragraph in Pecci's version, the corresponding paragraphs in the *Acta Sanctorum* being indicated in brackets. Although French, German, and Spanish translations appeared in the sixteenth century, Raimondo's

¹ Cf. F. Grottanelli, Introduction to the *Leggenda minore*, pp. ix.-xiv., where, however, it has escaped his notice that these two editions do not contain the same translation. I have not been able to see the intermediate editions, Naples, 1478, and Milan, 1488, respectively.